

San Miguel County Historical Register and Designation of Historical Landmarks



The Schmid Ranch



The Schmid Ranch, Wilson Mesa

The 780-acre Schmid Ranch was designated as a San Miguel County Historic Landmark in 2000 and listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties in 2002.



- ❧ The designation is based on the finding that the property includes buildings, structures, sites and landscapes which represent the architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th century ranching that are unique examples of structures and building types which are representative of the historic ranching era in Colorado. Furthermore, the property is an example of an intact historic working ranch landscape.
- ❧ Located 12 miles southwest of Telluride, the property contains three distinct ranchsteads with a total of 28 buildings. Many of the buildings illustrate a variety of log construction techniques. The ranch is the last intact example of the agricultural operations and buildings that once covered Wilson Mesa.
- ❧ A portion of the property has been owned by the same family since it was homesteaded in 1882. Five generations of Wells, Champlins and Schmids have worked the land. Today, the family continues to operate the ranch as their ancestors did, running cattle. Due to increasing development pressures, the family placed a conservation easement on the property to preserve it. In addition to being one of the few remaining high mesa working ranches in San Miguel County, the property also provides important wildlife habitat. The Schmid Ranch is a designated Colorado Centennial Farm, as it has been in the same family ownership for 100 years. The Colorado State Register is the official list of Colorado's cultural resources worthy of preservation.
- ❧ References: Schmid Ranch Historic Structure Survey, 2002 by AE Design Associates.
- ❧ Colorado Historical Society, State Register of Historic Places, Nomination Form, April Montgomery, 2002

The Hogg Ranch



View of Hogg Ranch, late 1800s or early 1900s

Hogg Ranch, Four Miles West of Telluride on Airport Road, Deep Creek Mesa



- ❧ The Hogg Ranch buildings are among the last vestiges of the agricultural development that occurred in the late 1800s and early 1900s on the mesas and in the Telluride area. Nomination of this site is justified for its association with the early settlement of Deep Creek Mesa, its historical agricultural landscape, and its influence in the development of hay, dairy and cattle operations. The nearby community of Telluride provided a strong market for hay, dairy products and beef. The site exemplifies the cultural, political, economic or social heritage of the community.
- ❧ The site is associated with notable person, H.M. Hogg, an attorney and public official who spoke in opposition to Governor Peabody's declaration of martial law on Jan 3, 1904 during the labor strike between the Western Federation of Miners (WFM) and the Mine Owners Association/Telluride Militia under Bulkeley Wells as general manager of the Smuggler Union properties. Hogg was the San Miguel County attorney from 1890-1892. He was elected to representative to the 58th and 59th Congress serving from 1902-1907. In 1906 Hogg sponsored the bill that created the Mesa Verde National Park. Although he owned this property for only nine years, it continued through time to be known as the Hogg Ranch.
- ❧ References: Cultural Resource Inventory and Recordation of the Collins Barn Site, by Jon Horn, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. July 2008. Conversations at 9000 Feet, A Collection of Oral Histories from Telluride, CO. Compiled by Davine Pera, Page 68, 2000. Park History: Would There Have Been a Mesa Verde National Park without Virginia McClurg? <http://www.nationalparktraveler.com>. Search for Historic Significance, H.M. Hogg, Historic Recommendation, George Greenbank, 2011 Historic Timeline developed by Lee Lynn Thompson, 2011



View of Hogg Ranch on post card entitled Scenic Last Dollar Road, Photograph by Arthur Fox, Circa 1960s.

Breckenridge Place

Aldasaro Ranch, Deep Creek Mesa



Breckenridge house, 2007, before stabilization



Breckenridge house, 2011, after stabilization

Breckenridge Place, Aldasaro Ranch, Deep Creek Mesa

The Breckenridge Place, originally one of the largest land holdings on Deep Creek Mesa, was used in ranching and dairy farming. The remaining buildings, on an open space tract owned in common by the Aldasaro Homeowners Company, were stabilized in 2007.

The Breckenridge family, Thomas and Margaret and sons Reece and Walter, arrived in the Telluride area in the 1877. On June 5, 1905 a newspaper reported the Breckenridge ranch had "1000 acres under fence and 400 acres of hay land and lots of fresh food, eggs and milk." A 1908 article reported "barley as tall as a man's shoulders with 2.5 tons to the acre on 400 acres." In addition to farming and ranching, Walter and Reece were mule packers who supplied the mines and worked the Royal group of mining claims located in 1877 by Thomas in Bridal Veil Basin.

Thomas participated in three of John Fremont's topographical expeditions. He also participated in the campaign that freed California from Mexico.

The Breckenridge Place is noteworthy for its association with the early settlement of Deep Creek Mesa and influence in the development of hay, dairy and cattle operations.

The Breckenridge Place represents the built environment of a group of people in an era of history. It is associated with Thomas E. Breckenridge, a noteworthy person. It exemplifies the cultural, political, economic or social heritage of the community.

References: Cultural Resource Inventory and Recordation of the Collins Barn Site, by Jon Horn, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. July 2008. Conversations at 9000 Feet, Compiled by Davine Pera, Page 180-181, 2000. The Story of a Famous Expedition, from The Cosmopolitan, The Narrative of Fremont's Retreat from the San Luis Valley as told by Thomas E. Breckenridge, August 1896, compliments of Dirk Depagter. A Letter from one of Col. Fremont's men, Ned Kern to Mr. A. Robidoux, about the tragic Fremont expedition, compliments of Dirk Depagter. Historic timeline, developed by Lee Lynn Thompson.

The Collins Barn



During stabilization, 2009



Before Stabilization

Collins Barn, Deep Creek Mesa

A barn, corrals and fence are the only remaining artifacts of the Hasten C. Collins Homestead, patent issued April 15, 1902. The Collins barn was designated as a San Miguel County Historic Landmark and listed on the County Historic Register in 2000. It is located on private property in Deep Creek Subdivision and may be viewed from the county road approximately 2.9 miles up Last Dollar Road from the Telluride side of Deep Creek Mesa.

Hasten Collins had purchased the “rights to the claim” from John W. Carr in 1897. Hasten C. Collins and his wife Martha Jane (Moore) Collins originally from Virginia moved to the Deep Creek Mesa Ranch in 1896. The Collins’ raised hay, operated a dairy, and delivered milk to Telluride. In 1900 they built a seven-room house east of the barn. According to local history, the house burned in the early 1970s.

Their son, Sam Collins (born 1887) took over the ranch in 1914. Sam also operated a store in Vanadium on the San Miguel River. Martha Jane Collins continued to live in the house until 1940.

The history of Deep Creek Mesa ranching is deeply connected to the history of the Telluride region. The names from the land records; Adams, Anderson, Carr, Boyer, Breckenridge, Lavender, Painter, Moore, Shay, Dimond, Hummel, Stephens, McKnight, Jacobs and Oberto are recognized throughout the history of the area.

This structure and site are important because embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction.

This barn has been repaired by the owners with help from San Miguel County. A corrugated steel replacement roof and repairs to the structure were completed in 2009.

References: Cultural Resource Inventory and Recordation of the Collins Barn Site, San Miguel County, Colorado by Jonathan Horn, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. Montrose 2008. Architectural Files, George Greenbank, Telluride 2007 . Last Dollar Ranch, by Dona Freeman

The Robert Estep Homestead/Pouchoulou Residence,



The Robert Estep Homestead/Pouchoulou Residence

The primary period of significance for the site is the initial homesteading and ranching period of Robert and Grace Estep from about 1912 to 1926. The period of time represented by the Estep's occupation was when Specie Mesa was subject to intensive land acquisition through homesteading for ranching and extensive aggregation of land into large ranches by successful ranchers. The homesteading and aggregation in the 1910s and 1920s established the pattern of agricultural land use that is still evident today, though that pattern has begun to be altered through subdivision of some of the large holdings. Subsequent use by the Pouchoulou Brothers from at least 1944 to about 1972 continued the ranching tradition started by the Esteps, but is not considered of primary historical significance.

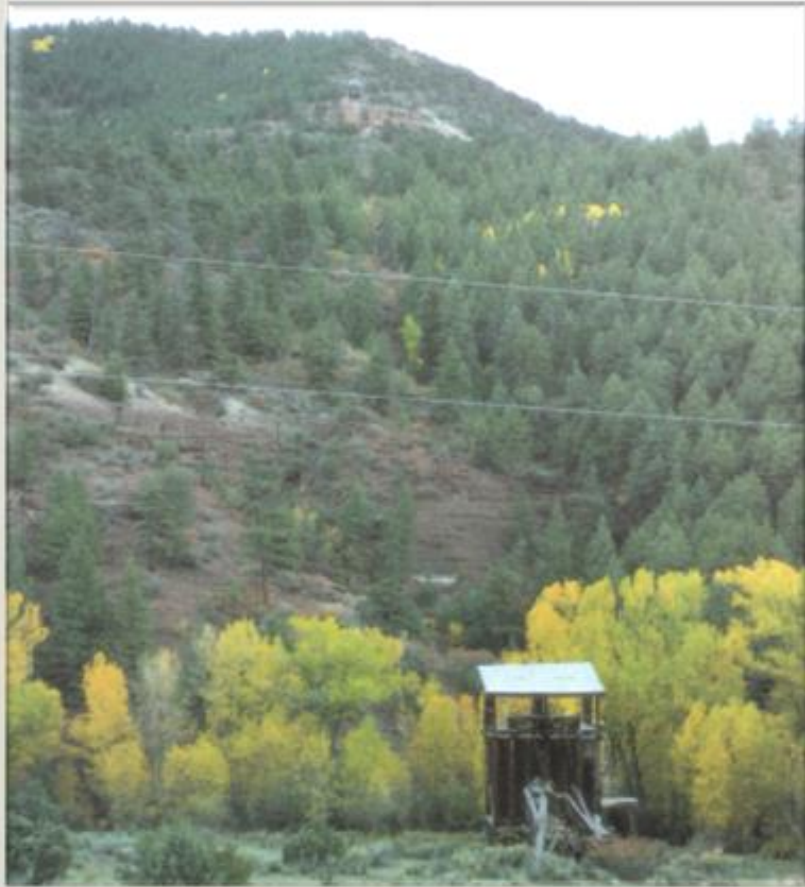
The site is significant as a typical ranching complex in the region from the 1910s and 1920s. The residence and barn are highly visible from County Road P52 and are important elements of the historic ranching landscape on Specie Mesa. The log barn at the site is a rare survival on the landscape of the region.

According to local legend, after Robert died, Grace Estep ran the place as a brothel which became known as Cowboy Heaven. Large cattle drives out of southeast Utah enroute to the shipping yard at Placerville would hold over at the Estep homestead if the corrals at Placerville were full. According to rancher Mario Zadra, the property was well kept and nice. It included a bunk house and a barn. He said the house was part bunk house. Sometimes the cattle were held on Specie Mesa for five days. Mrs. Estep had corrals, dancing girls, and bootleg whiskey during prohibition. She also cooked for the cattle drives. Cowboys could sleep in a bed rather than on the ground. According to Zadra, the place was a party place during prohibition. He recalled seeing 15 or 20 people there.

The County listed the site on the County's Historic Register in 2009.

Reference: Cultural Resource Recordation of the Robert Estep Homestead/Pouchoulou Residence (Cowboy Heaven), Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. 2009

Personal interviews with Mario Zadra and Howard Greagor, by Linda Luther and Jon Horn, 2009.



The Omega ore tipple and cable tram house, 1976, The RSG Story, Vol. 1, Page 254. Only the tram house visible at the top of the photo remains.

The Omega Cable Tram House

The Omega site is located on the south side of Highway 62 about a mile east of the intersection at Highway 62 and 145 at Placerville.

It was the site of a railroad spur used for loading carnotite ore which was taken to the Primos Chemical Company mill at Vanadium for reduction.

The Omega mine complex reportedly extended underground from above Placerville to near Fall Creek and was active in the early 1900's.

Only the ore tipple on the south hillside remains today.

Reference: The RSG Story. Volume 1, Pages 254-257.

King Residence



Historic photo of Norwood Main Street looking east. King House is the first house on the left surrounded by picket fence. Photo from Denver Public Library. Photo right was taken in 2005.



The King Residence was constructed in 1898 by W.H. Nelson for George W. King, who ran the first saloon in Norwood. It is a one-story, wood frame, gable front and wing structure built in the Folk Victorian style (McAlester and McAlester 1988). Although not as ornate as many Victorian structures, the King Residence contains a variety of stylistic elements typical of the period.

The King Residence is the best example of Victorian architecture in Norwood. Although a few residences of similar or slightly more recent age still exist in Norwood, all have been severely modified through incompatible additions, siding changes, window alterations, and removal of decorative elements. Some 1910s to 1930s residences in Norwood retain comparable integrity, but none are pristine. Although the King Residence is no longer used as a residence, it clearly retains the appearance of a residence, though it serves as office space. It is an important component of downtown Norwood because it enables the town to retain its historical character as a Victorian town with a downtown comprised of a mix of commercial and residential structures.

The Town of Norwood was settled in 1879 when Edwin Joseph homesteaded Norwood. In the late 1800s Norwood was a supply post for the stockmen in Paradox Valley who would move their herds through Norwood and "stock up" before moving to the Lone Cone pastures. Later, as mining in the nearby mountains grew prosperous, Norwood became the timber and ranching support community for many of the neighboring towns.

Reference: Nomination Form for Listing on San Miguel County Historic Register, Kay and Moreta Hartman, 2004. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. 2004.

Robert M. White/Boyd Oliver Residence



The Robert M. White/Boyd Oliver residence is located on Summit Street in Norwood. It is a two-story Craftsman-style residence constructed in 1922. Lots 21-24 of Block 11 West of Blizill's Addition to Norwood were purchased by the White Brothers Mercantile Co in 1916. The business was comprised of Everett E. and Robert M. White who had evidently moved to the Norwood area by about 1908. The two brothers saw promise in Norwood and started a general store. After acquiring the lots, Robert constructed the house on the property in 1922. Boyd Oliver bought the property in 1948. The Oliver family obtained land on the northeast edge of Norwood where they raised and raced horses. Part of this land, which included the horse racing track was donated for the San Miguel County Fairgrounds. Boyd and his wife Bertha lived in the house for 30 years.

The residence is representative of the Craftsman style of architecture. Although not unique in style or innovative in its construction, materials or design, the residence was well constructed and is representative of residences built in rural Colorado communities by their more prosperous residents. In this case, the residence was constructed by Robert M. White, a prominent merchant in Norwood. It was later the residence of Boyd Oliver, who was also a prominent resident, whose family moved to Norwood about 1910 and who resided in Norwood from the time he was a child until his death in 2001.

Reference: Colorado Cultural Resource Survey, Architectural Inventory Form, Alpine Archaeological Consultants Inc. 2007

Placerville Schoolhouse



After structure restoration in 2013



1930s view of Placerville School

The Placerville Schoolhouse was built in 1908 and stands in its original location, less than one half mile south of the intersection of SH 145 and SH 62, in Placerville. The building maintains integrity of design, feeling and setting. Its large windows and gabled roof provide an excellent example of early twentieth century vernacular schoolhouse architecture.

The schoolhouse was listed on the County Historic Register in 2011. It was recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places based on its distinctive characteristics of type, period and method of construction in the 2004 Cultural Resource Inventory of Select Historic Sites in San Miguel County, Colorado by Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

The building housed grades 1-8 until 1962 when area schools consolidated and became the Telluride R-1 School District. As early as 1968, the building was being managed as a community center. Over the years, it functioned as a polling place, meeting hall, and social center for Placerville.

In 2012, San Miguel County purchased the building from the R-1 School District in order to restore the historic structure and return it to the public for use as a community center..

References:

Cultural Resource Inventory of Select Historic Sites in San Miguel County, Colorado by Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., 2004
Notice of Bids, 9/10/1908, <http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
31 Years behind Bars in a Fourth Class Post Office, From the Telluride Times, Jan. 31, 1985 reprinted January 28, 2005.

Lemon Hot Springs



View of Lemon Hot Springs, Placerville, above shows canvas tents around a vegetable garden among a pool of water and spruce trees. A man stands by a stack of logs and freight cars of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad show in background. Joseph E. Beyer's photo, 1901.

Lemon Hot Springs , Geyser Lode, Placerville, CO



According to a Nov 6, 1902 Telluride Journal account, C.P. Lemon, owner of the Lemon Hot Springs, was building a tunnel into the mountain following the flow of water from a hot spring said to rank with some of the best in the state in medicinal properties. Lemon filed a placer claim on the area to secure the hot spring. According to newspaper accounts, he planned to build a fine hotel and bath house. The springs were located within a 100 yards of the Rio Grande Southern depot and reached by a foot bridge crossing the San Miguel river. According to Russ Collman, *The RGS Story*, Vol. 1, page 284, the mineral hot springs was at least a secondary factor that drew people to settle the area in 1887.

The hot spring was thought to be a cure-all for many ailments. The spring, cave and remnants of the concrete pools remain to this day. The hot springs was an important social element in the early years of Placerville.

Reference: RGS, Volume 1, page 284. Landowner, John Janus, who nominated the site to the County Historic Register in 2005



Rio Grande Southern Railroad Bridge # 51A Aka Trout Lake Trestle

In an era when dirt was moved by shovel and pickax, large cuts and fills were very expensive and slow. Wooden trestles however were relatively inexpensive and quick to build. The result was about 140 major wooden trestles on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad (RGS) between Ridgway and Durango. The only surviving trestle is the Trout Lake Trestle.

Known in RGS railroad records as Bridge 51A, the trestle spans the Lake Fork of the San Miguel River south of the Ophir Loop and upstream from Trout Lake. It was built between 1910 and 1912 as a replacement of an earlier, slightly smaller bridge that was washed away in the 1909 flood.

The trestle is 146 feet long and contains a 26 degree curve as it crosses 50 feet above the Lake Fork of the San Miguel River. These trestles required a great deal of maintenance and a large group of men called the Bridge and Building (B&B) gang did the work. These trestles were built of imported Oregon red fir (heartwood).

Continued on next slide.



View of trestle stabilization work 2004-2005

The railroad line was abandoned in 1952, and from 1953 to 2004 the bridge had no maintenance or alterations other than the salvage of iron rails and the ties. For a number of years, following abandonment, the trestle was used as the automobile bridge by the County until a detour was built around it. The site was listed on the State Register of Historic properties on May 14, 1997 and was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places along with other extant features of the railroad segment. The County listed the trestle in 2000.

The Trout Lake Trestle was stabilized in 2004-2005 with grant funds from the Colorado Historical Fund, Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), San Miguel County, and the US Forest Service.

References: Archaeological Research and Monitoring Plan

Trout Lake Trestle Rehabilitation Project, Leigh Ann Hunt, Forest Archaeologist, GMUG, Delta, Feb. 2003

RGS Story, Volume 4, p. 217



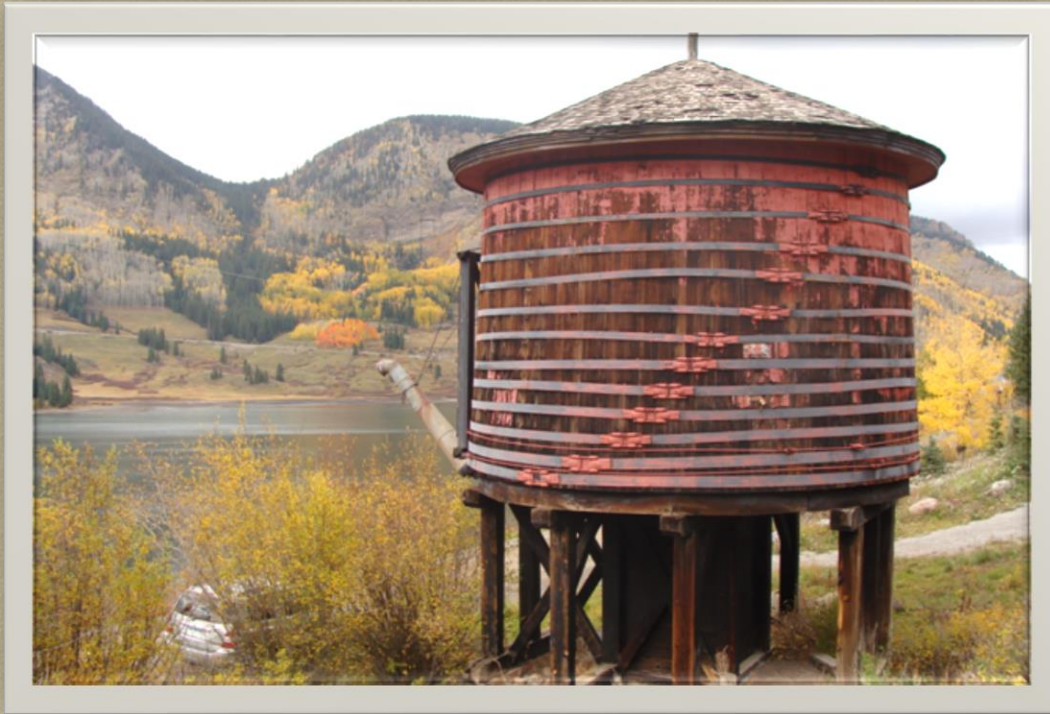
Trout Lake Rio Grande Southern Rail Road Water Tank

Typically the narrow gauge locomotives used on the Rio Grande Southern Rail Road here could carry 2000 to 5000 gallons of water in their tender. This water was boiled to make steam to provide power to pull the train. The locomotives would typically use up this water in about 15 miles going up hill depending on the load they were pulling.



The Rio Grande Southern Railroad built 15 large water tanks distributed about one every 12 miles to provide water to locomotives. These tanks were Denver Rio Grande RR standard 50,000 gallon cylindrical tanks. They had a small (about 3") supply pipe from a surface water source up slope and a huge spout that could empty 1000 gallons/minute into the locomotive tender. The supply line would run continuously and overflow the tank to prevent freezing in the winter. Pumps were seldom used, while everything was done by gravity. There was a large force of men called Water Service who maintained the tanks and sources of supply.

Reference: Karl Schaeffer, Ridgway Railroad Museum. Photos from 1940s.

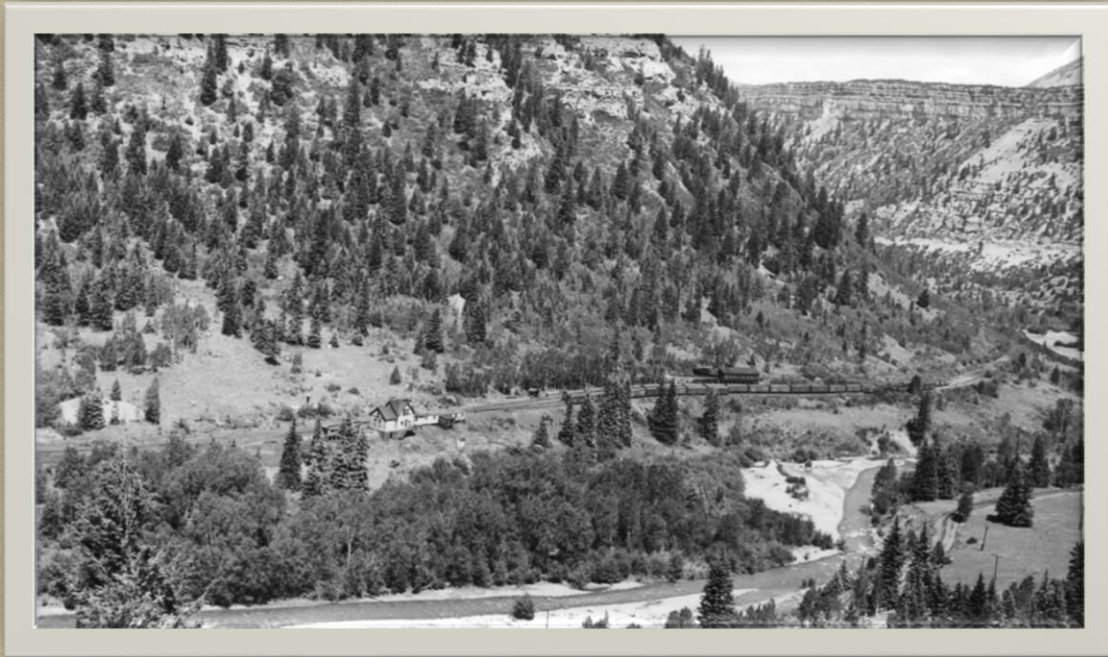


Trout Lake RGS RR Water Tank

The Trout Lake RGS RR Water Tank is one of only two remaining tanks on the RGS RR line. The Trout Lake Land Company listed the structure on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. The company conveyed ownership of the structure to San Miguel County in 2012.

Photo 2012.

Vance Junction RGS RR Coal Chute



View of Vance Junction from the Keystone Hill grade looking west at the station house with a yard full of train cars. The coal chute is to the right of center. 1946 photo by Robert W. Richardson, courtesy of Colorado Railroad Museum Collection.

The circa 1890 chute is associated with the Rio Grande Southern Railway's narrow-gauge line that operated through the mountainous regions of southwestern Colorado. Once common along coal burning railroads, it is Colorado's only remaining coal chute on a narrow-gauge line. It was listed on the Colorado Register of Historic Places in 1997 and stabilized by the Forest Service in 2000. It is located along the rail road grade north of Ilium. Photo 2010.



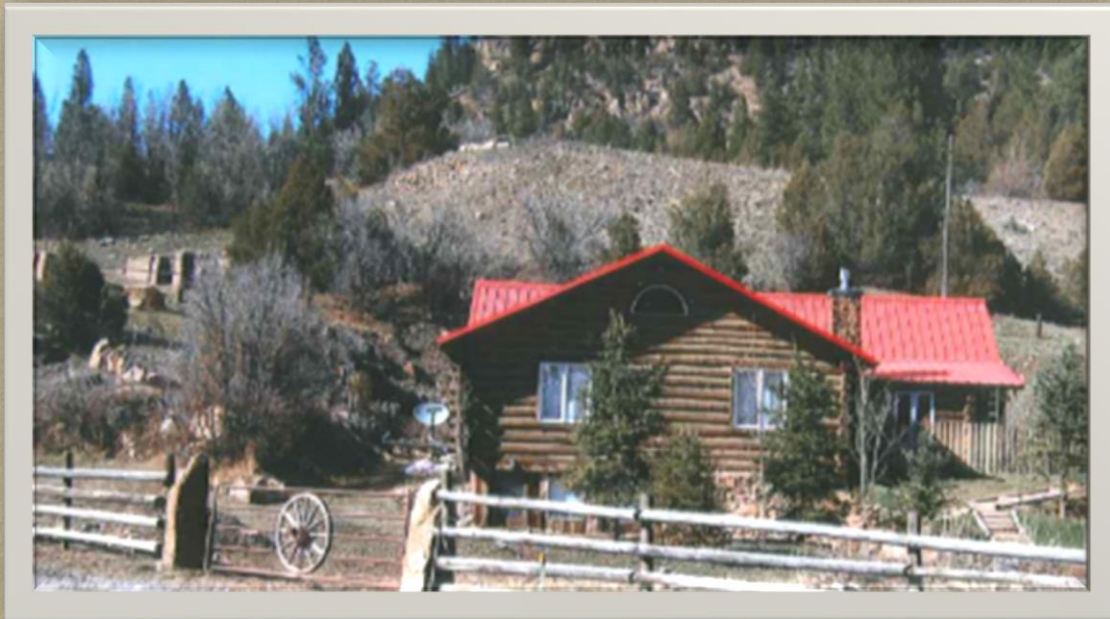
Green Mountain Lodge



Green Mountain Lodge aka Ranch is the structure on the right. The trestle shown in the photograph, known as Haskell's Spur Trestle, was 368 feet long on a 2.12% grade. The trestle foundation is still visible on the east side of CR X48. CR X48 in this location was part of the historic Dave Wood Road, the original freight-hauling road that connected Placerville and Montrose prior to construction of the railroad. Photo by Robert Richardson, 1946.

The Green Mountain Lodge building is now a residence located at the intersection of County Road X48 and Colorado Highway 62. Once a post office and camp for sportsmen, this private residence is all that remains of Leonard, a bustling stop on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad (RGS). The land on which this house stands was part of Allen Curtis Haskill's 1891 120-acre homestead which lay along Leopard Creek. The building dates to 1900.

References: RGS, Volume I, p.37: Colorado Cultural Resource Survey, Management Data Form OAHP 1400 Rev. 9/98



Green Mountain Lodge aka Ranch as it exists today. Note trestle foundation on left. Photo by George Greenback, May 2010.

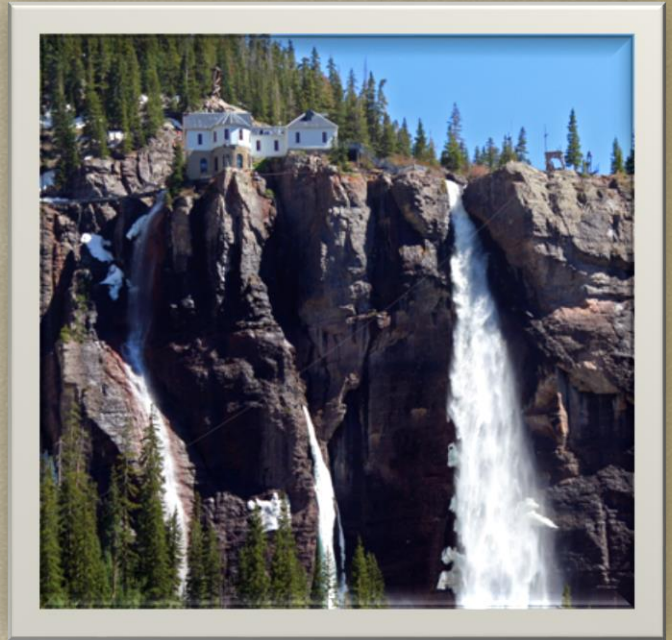
Smuggler-Union Hydroelectric Power Plant/Bridal Veil Powerhouse



Bridal Veil Power Plant

Opened in 1907, the power plant is associated with the development of the Smuggler-Union Mining Company, one of Colorado's most important producers during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is associated with important figures in the mining industry such as James B. Grant, Nathaniel P. Hill, Richard Pearce, Anton Eilers, Bulkeley Wells, and Henry Lee Higginson, all of whom at one time owned part of the company and participated in its finance or management. It is noted for its unusual architectural features and spectacular settings; and for its pioneering role in the development of hydroelectric power used for industrial purposes in the United States.

Telluride was an important mining community in Colorado, and the Smuggler-Union Mining Company one of the most important producers in the area. The enterprise emerged from the combination of several claims located in the late 1880s, the most important properties being the Smuggler and the Union. Management found good veins of ore to exploit, investment capital flowed in to open the mines and build ancillary structures; and several groups of entrepreneurs alternately bought and sold control of the firm until it was finally purchased by the Idarado Mining Company, today a subsidiary of Newmont Mining Company, one of the world's largest mineral producers.



2009 Photo by Terry Foote, Wikipedia

Bridal Veil Power Plant



The Bridal Veil Powerhouse owed its origins to the need of the Smuggler-Union Company for electric power. Bulkeley Wells, local manager at the time, initiated the project, convinced higher levels of management of the utility, and pushed construction through to completion. When opened in 1907, the plant housed a generator which provided the second alternating current used for industrial purposes in the United States – in this particular case, for lighting mines and running mills. At least a portion of the water needed was flumed to the facility from Blue Lake, 3000 feet above and four miles away; then power was transmitted to the mines 2000 feet below. The plant operated year round, but as the road to it was impassable during the winter, the enterprise built an aerial tramway to haul men and supplies up the precipice.

The powerhouse remained in operation until 1953 when the Idarado Mining Company acquired the building, along with various mills and mines. Idarado moved mine personnel, as well as most of the furniture and fixtures, out of the house. Idarado did not keep the plant in operation choosing instead to obtain electricity from San Miguel Power Association.

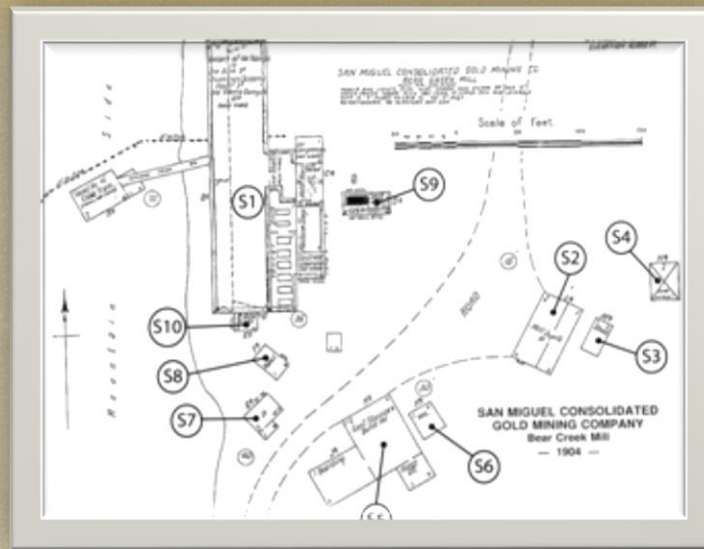
Eric Jacobson obtained a lease on the property from Idarado Mining Company in 1987, restored the residence and placed the power plant on line. Jacobson repaired the residence adhering to the original floor plan and keeping the interior divided into several small rooms. Jacobson operated the power plant until 2010 when Idarado Mining Company bought out Jacobson's lease.

References: National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form Prepared by Roger Neville Williams, December 7, 1977. RGS Vol. II p. 460-465. Western Colorado Power Co. Collection M – 002. Center of Southwest Studies Charlie Telk – Living History Tape at Wilkinson Library, Telluride

Bear Creek Mill, San Miguel Consolidated Gold Mining Company



The Bear Creek Mill is in the Bear Creek Preserve in Bear Creek Canyon about two miles south of Telluride. The site boundaries are defined by the extent of the identified features and artifacts. The site is situated on both sides of Forest Service Road 635 which follows the alignment of the canyon's historic road through the site. The site begins at the edge of Bear Creek's west bank and runs west slightly uphill until meeting the steep slope of Coonskin Mountain. The mill and its tram house were situated on the steep slope. *Continued next page.*



According to the building descriptions given on a 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of the mill, structures on the east side of the FR 635 were primarily for residential uses, and those on the west side were for industrial use. Although the mill site historically consisted of more than 12 structures and outbuildings in 1904, none remain standing. The remaining features exhibit a major amount of cultural and environmental disturbance, apparently associated with the burning and subsequent scrapping of the mill, circa 1914.

Historical significance: The Bear Creek Mill was originally constructed during the silver panic of 1893 by the San Miguel Consolidated Gold Mining Company and was an important component of the company's mining interests in the Bear Creek Valley. The San Miguel Consolidated Mining Company's activities at Bear Creek Mill embody the wave of corporate mining development, tying together mines, tramways, power plants and milling sites that defined the gold era of Telluride in the late 1890s through the 1910s. It was a classroom for electrical engineers studying alternating current. Archaeological materials exist in surface and subsurface deposits that can add important information about what the industrial components are, how they functioned, and what level of technology they represent.

Reference: Colorado Cultural Resource Survey, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. 2001

Valley View Mill and Tram House

The Valley View Mill and Tram house is a mine complex situated at the bottom of an extremely steep canyon on both sides of Marshall Creek below the Bullion Tunnel and below and downstream of the remains of the Cimarron Mine and Mill.



View of Valley View Mill Complex , circa 1895

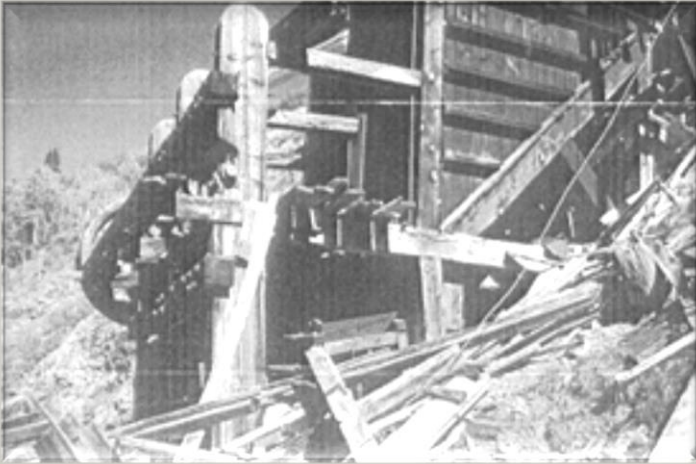
Valley View Mill and Tram House

The Valley View Mill and Tram House was recommended as National Register-eligible in the 2001 Colorado Cultural Survey. It is one of several small stamp mills that were erected after the silver crash of the Panic of 1893 to process ore resulting from increased gold production in the area.

The Valley View mine was not one of the major producers of ore in the area, but was sufficiently large to be connected by tramway to a mill. After the demise of the Valley View Gold Mining Company in about 1899, the mill does not seem to have been operated again.

The core of the stamp mill is still intact and a large quantity of its equipment is still in place and easily interpretable.

Reference: Colorado Cultural Resource Survey,
Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. 2001

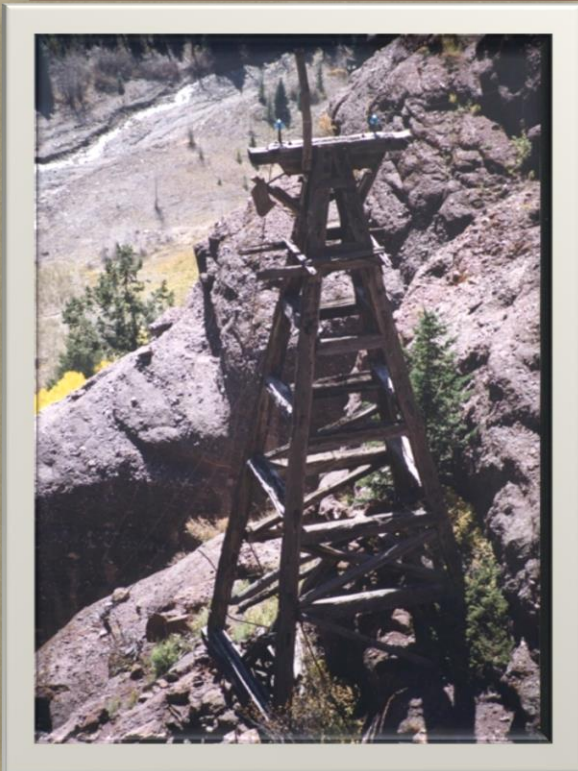


View of stamps and ore bins, 2001



Tramway entry, 2001

Valley View Tramway



- ✧ The Valley View tram towers are among the last visible vestiges of aerial tramway transportation that was relatively common and critical to the economical movement of ore from the mines of the region. The steep and rugged terrain of the area made the use of tramways a necessity.
- ✧ The tramway was part of a complex mining system, but the upper point of origin and lower destination have yet to be identified. The standing tramway structures comprising the site appear to be typical of tramway construction from about 1900 to the 1930s. Although inaccessible because of the steep and dangerous terrain, the tram towers are highly visible entities that contribute to the historic mining landscape of the region.
- ✧ The recorded segment of the Valley View Tramway consists of three tram structures visible on the cliffs on the west side of the canyon of Marshall Creek above the Pandora Mill in a 660-foot-long area.
- ✧ Reference: Colorado Cultural Resource Survey, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. 2001

Liberty Bell Tramway



The Liberty Bell Aerial Tramway originated at the Liberty Bell Mine north of Telluride near the head of Cornet Creek on the south side of Greenback Mountain. It traveled approximately 3,200 feet southwest to the vicinity of the Stillwell Tunnel on the southeast side of Cornet Creek where it turned south for about 7,000 feet and terminated at the Liberty Bell Mill on the valley floor of the San Miguel River just east of the town of Telluride.

The Liberty Bell Mine and Mill was one of the major producers of gold ore in the Telluride area from the late 1890s to the early 1920s. The tramway facilitated transportation of ore from the mine to the mill. The structures comprising the tramway are excellent examples and are generally in very good condition. The tensioning station is the last remaining in the area.

Reference: Colorado Cultural Resource Survey, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. 2001

Fall Creek Tram at Primos Siding



The Fall Creek bucket-tram house and ore tippie is located just below the town of Sawpit on the south side of Colorado Highway 145.

Primos Siding refers to the railroad spur to the tram house and Primos comes from the company, Primos Chemical, which owned the vanadium mill at Newmire. An aerial tram delivered ore to the tram house from mines on the south hillside above the San Miguel River. Waiting Rio Grande Southern railroad cars hauled the ore upriver to the Primos Chemical Company's vanadium mill for processing.



Constructed in 1918 with some rebuilding in 1940, the tram is important as one of the last remaining structures from the vanadium mining industry that operated in the Lower San Miguel Mining District.

Reference: Colorado State Register

Suffolk Mine and Tram House



Suffolk tram house with Ophir in background.

The Suffolk Mine and Tram House is a small mining complex on the south side of Silver Mountain high above the town of Ophir on the north side of the Howard Fork of the San Miguel River valley.

The mine is a typical remote, high-elevation mine that made use of an aerial tramway to support its ore to a mill on the valley floor. The mine operated during the height of mining activity in the region, from 1890s to 1910s. The site is significant because it includes one of the most intact tram houses in the region and because it is a mining complex that is sufficiently intact and can be readily interpreted from what remains.

Reference: Colorado Cultural Resource Survey, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. 2001



East elevation of tram house, 2001.

Lewis Mill, Bridal Veil Basin





Lewis Mill

The 1910 Lewis Mill was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009 for its significance as a distinctive example of engineering and high country milling technology. At the time of its construction, the Lewis Mill was a state-of-the-art ore concentration mill. The technology employed and equipment utilized mark a transition from earlier stamp mill technology to later full chemical flotation. The Lewis Mill is the only transitional mill in Colorado that retains its original milling equipment. Additionally, the mill utilized technology developed by Robert H. Richards, a nationally recognized mining engineer from the Massachusetts School of Technology. The Lewis Mill contains the only remaining example of the Richards method of ore concentration in Colorado.



Although there were once many small and medium size mills located in the San Juan Mountains, most were salvaged for materials and/or subject to vandalism. The Lewis Mill's remote location, 3.5 miles south of the Bridal Veil power plant at 12,450' in elevation, spared it such a fate, leaving it remarkably intact with much original equipment.

Idarado Mining Co conveyed ownership of the building to San Miguel County in 2002 and helped fund the stabilization.

Photo top left depicts the condition of Lewis Mill when restoration activities began in 2001. Note helicopter above the building dropping roofing supplies. Photo bottom left shows Summit Roofing men putting the finishing touches on a new roof. Restoration activities are ongoing.

Valley View Leasing and Mining Company Mill aka Matterhorn Mill



Photo of Matterhorn Mill courtesy of Scott Smith

The 1920 Valley View Leasing and Mining Company Mill, commonly known as the Matterhorn Mill, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009 for its contribution to the 20th century silver mining industry in Colorado's San Juan Mountains.



South elevation of Lake View Mine structure, Blue Lake, 2001

Lake View Mine

The Lake View Mine is a mining complex on the southeast end of Blue Lake in Bridal Veil Basin southeast of Telluride comprised of a standing cabin, two former structure locations, three mining locations and associated artifacts. The site is considered a good representative example of a short-lived mining operation from the early 1900s. The isolated location of the site has resulted in it being completely unaltered since it was abandoned. Being short-lived and unaltered, the physical remains are easily interpretable and unambiguous, according to the Cultural Resource Survey by Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. in 2002. The standing structure at the site is a typical wood frame residence from the mining era in the region. Artifacts observed during an inventory suggest Italian ethnicity.

Mining seems to have taken place only during the summer of 1902.

Reference: A Cultural Resource Inventory of Select Historic Mining Sites San Miguel County Colorado, by Jonathan C. Horn, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc, 2002

Jackass Basin Cabin



Photo Not Available

The Jackass Basin cabin is on a low rise at the mouth of Jackass Basin, immediately north of the creek that flows from the basin. It is a 15 by 26 foot one story log cabin with a gable roof. No specific history of the cabin could be found. It is not on a patented mining claim, but seems to be associated with prospecting in the upper basins on the west side of Bridal Veil Creek: some minor mining is evident in Jackass Basin near the cabin.

Reference: Colorado Cultural Resource Survey, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. 2001

Bulkeley Wells Hunting Cabin.

CR Bulkeley Wells hunting cabin is in a dense stand of spruce trees just west of Deertail Creek near the north end of Deertail Basin at an elevation of 11,240 feet. It is 1 and 1/2 stories measuring 18 X 22'. Local lore suggests the cabin was the private hunting lodge of Bulkeley Wells, manager of the Smuggler-Union Mining Company between 1903 and 1923. Wells resided in the house above the Bridal Veil Falls during the summer months and was well acquainted with the Bridal Veil Basin and its surroundings. The substantial size of the structure and its being equipped with a telephone suggests that the association with Wells is correct. The cabin is one of only a few log structures remaining in the upper basins above Telluride. Unlike other cabins in the area, the structure is not connected to mining in the area. Rather, it was a hunting lodge constructed entirely for recreational purposes. As such, it is an unusual site type for the area, being an early private retreat for the wealthy. The site is important because of its association with Bulkeley Wells. Wells was the manager of the Smuggler-Union Mine between 1903 and 1923.

CR Reference. A Cultural Resource Inventory of Select Historic Mining Sites San Miguel County Colorado, by Jonathan C. Horn, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc, 2002

